X-rays, photos prove Warren Report wrong, says Baltimore author

By Henry Scarupa

On this date in 1964, the Warren Report was issued to the public, spawning 25 years of skepticism about its conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Among those who have spent nearly that entire time probing the who-killed-Kennedy mystery is Baltimore author Harrison Edward Livingstone, who claims to have found the "greasy thumbprint" that undermines the report and the U.S. government's version of what happened in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

A fiction writer and playwright, Mr. Livingstone charges that autopsy photographs and X-rays were faked and do not show Kennedy's wounds as seen and recalled by competent eyewitnesses. He points to inconsistencies between the photos and the X-rays, with the X-rays indicating injuries that do not appear in the photos. Only people well-placed in government could have carried out the murder, and the cover-up that followed, he argues.

He carefully lays out all this in "High Treason," the 470-page book he wrote with Robert J. Groden and self-published last March, purporting to tell what happened. Included are several autopsy photos of Kennedy which he says have never before appeared in print.

He has already sold out the book's initial printing of 5,000 and now is bringing out a second

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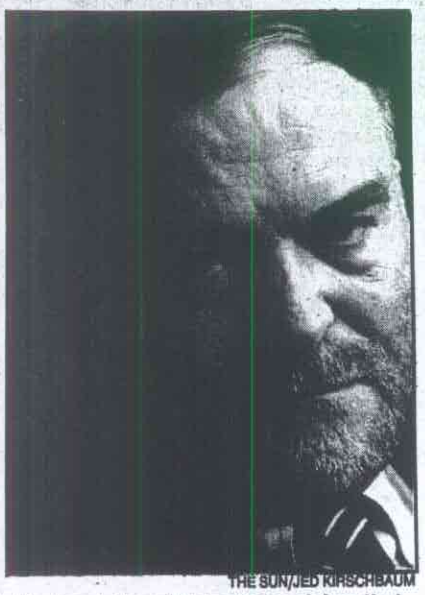

THE SUN/JED KIRSCHBAUM

Harrison Edward Livingstone claims that autopsy photographs and X-rays were faked.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Kennedy waves from the limousine. A few moments later, he was assassinated.

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The official story

Below is a summary of important Warren Report conclusions:

☐ **The assassin:** Lee Harvey Oswald, 23, former Marine and onetime defector to the Soviet Union.

☐ **The weapon:** 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle purchased by Oswald through mail order.

☐ **Origin of shots:** Easternmost window of the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository.

☐ **Number of shots:** Three. One (termed the "magic bullet") striking Kennedy in the back, exiting at the throat and veering to hit Governor Connally just below the right armpit, exiting below the right nipple, then shattering his right wrist and causing a slight wound in the thigh; the second hitting Kennedy in the back of the head and causing the fatal injury; the third, a missed shot, slamming into the curb.

The "magic" or pristine bullet was tagged with the name because of its unusual performance without suffering any distortion on impact. Found on a stretcher in the corridor of Parkland Hospital, it showed no trace of blood or tissue.

—Henry Scarupa

thumbprint," declares Mr. Livingstone.

In rejecting the Warren Report, Mr. Livingstone has elaborated a scenario which he feels is more plausible given the facts that are being steadily uncovered. Oswald, he says, had some sort of involvement with U.S. intelligence, and was sent to the Soviet Union as a spy, probably by the Office of Naval Intelligence. He was set up as the fall guy, with a tell-tale trail carefully laid out months in advance of the assassination.

On the eventful day the conspirators mounted a classic military ambush with three or four gunmen on the scene to ensure the president would not escape. The killers were probably Mafia hit men or Cuban exiles angry with Kennedy over his his abandonment of the Bay of Pigs invaders. In Mr. Livingstone's version, four shots struck Kennedy, two from the front and two from the back, and one hit Texas Gov. John Connally. A sixth shot (the third, according to the Warren Report) missed its target and smashed into the curb, sending debris into the face of bystander James Tague.

A drawing in the book suggests possible vantage points from which the gunmen could have aimed at the president. They include the Dallas Texas Building and the Dallas County Records Building, near the Book Depository, as well as the Depository itself, looking down from the back; a manhole covered by a rectangular grate on the south knoll to the left of the motorcade; manholes on the right and left sides of the triple overpass in front of the president's car; and an area behind a stockade fence on the grassy knoll to the right and front.

Mr. Livingstone notes that there is no hard evidence linking Oswald to the crime, or that any shots actually came from the Book Depository Building. Tactically the Depository, with its sniper's nest set-up in the easternmost window of the sixth floor, could have served as a diversion, allowing the true killers to escape unimpeded and implicating Oswald.

To allow the assassination to occur, Mr. Livingstone says, "Somebody among the president's guard betrayed him, and was in a position to slow down or control the rest of them, which prevented the president from being guarded adequately."

So who were the perpetrators? "It's a cabal of powerful men," he goes on, "inside and outside of government, backed by powerful interests like some of the Texas oilmen and the defense industry who stood to gain enormous amounts of money in the [Vietnam] war."

The book concludes with a short article by retired Air Force Col. Fletcher Prouty, former liaison between the CIA and the Pentagon, who contends the assassination was a coup by a "War Party" intent on directing U.S. policy to its advantage. Kennedy was killed because he was pulling back from U.S. military involvement in Vietnam. Spearheading such efforts, including the cover-up, is a "Secret Team," according to Colonel Prouty, made up of highly placed officials in the intelligence community, the military and the president's inner circle.

Despite the stone wall critics of the Warren Report have encountered in challenging the official record, Mr. Livingstone belives there is a need to keep hammering away, in hopes that eventually the "truth' will be acknowledged.